



NASA Policy Directive

NPD 7500.2Effective Date: March 24, 2000
Expiration Date: December 31, 2006**COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Subject: NASA Technology Commercialization Policy (Revalidated 4/26/04)

Responsible Office: Exploration Systems Mission Directorate

1. POLICY

This NPD establishes a NASA-wide technology commercialization policy. For the purposes of this policy, technology commercialization is the development of NASA Aeronautics and Space mission technology in commercial technology partnerships, and the application of NASA technological assets in non-aerospace and aerospace markets which result in economic benefit to U.S. economy or improvements to the quality of life. Technological assets include innovations, technologies, facilities and expertise. Commercial technology partnerships are the cornerstone of this policy.

The NASA technology commercialization policy is as follows:

- a. NASA activities whose planned or existing technological assets (innovations, technologies, facilities and expertise) have technology commercialization potential will emphasize commercial technology partnerships with U.S. industry from their onset and throughout their life cycle.
- b. In support of national technology policy, NASA's goal for investment in commercial technology partnerships is 10 to 20 percent of NASA's annual fiscal year research and development (R&D) activities.
- c. Agencywide technology commercialization metrics (as identified by the NASA Associate Deputy Administrator) shall be collected on all applicable NASA activities, and collected through the NASATechTracS information system. NASATechTracS will be the single repository for these Agencywide technology commercialization metrics. Program/project technology commercialization metrics shall be reported to the Program Management Council.
- d. In order to effectively communicate the knowledge of available NASA technological assets and commercial technology partnership opportunities to the nonaerospace and aerospace industries, NASA shall conduct outreach activities. NASA shall use, among other means, electronic media to reach the broadest possible audience. NASA shall take advantage of commercial marketing opportunities to interact with the U.S. business community to promote commercial technology partnership development.
- e. NASA commercial technology efforts will utilize "electronic commerce" as a standard practice. In particular, the application of electronic media and communications technology will be given priority, and efforts will be made to quickly replace paper documentation, storage, transmission, and authentication with electronic means.
- f. NASA shall provide commercial technology training to employees involved in technology commercialization processes (e.g., program/project engineers, commercialization specialists, procurement officials, etc.).
- g. NASATechTracS shall be used as the Agencywide commercial technology information system. Specifically, NASATechTracS supports the following key technology commercialization processes:
 - (1) The identification, assessment and tracking of NASA activities with technology commercialization potential;
 - (2) The identification, assessment and tracking of planned and existing technological assets;
 - (3) The identification, assessment and tracking of NASA's commercial technology partnerships;
 - (4) Communication to the Public of NASA and NASA-derived technologies and innovations;
 - (5) Success story collection, validation, and reporting;
 - (6) The collection and reporting of Agencywide technology commercialization metrics; and
 - (7) Technology commercialization "electronic commerce" processes.

h. NASA shall transfer information and technology in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in conformance with NASA's rights and obligations with regard to such information or technology. NASA shall guard against the transfer of information or technology which threatens national or economic security. Such transfer can result from the use of insecure Information Technology (IT), as well as from inappropriate content transfer. Refer to NPD and NPR 2810.1, Security of Information Technology, for specific responsibilities in IT security. Refer to NPD 9800.1 for specific responsibilities for reporting illegal computer system intrusions and other computer crimes.

i. NASA shall strengthen its long-standing commitment to expand participation by small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses in its commercial technology programs. Accordingly, NASA shall maintain effective outreach and information exchange activities to increase the awareness of NASA technologies, opportunities and programs. This policy recognizes that small businesses are a primary engine of national economic growth, which furthers NASA's stated policy of enhancing national economic security.

2. APPLICABILITY

a. This NPD is applicable to NASA Headquarters and NASA Centers, including Component Facilities; and to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to the extent specified in its contract.

b. Definition of "commercial technology partnerships"--Commercial technology partnerships are collaborations between the government, industry, and/or academia wherein each party commits resources to the accomplishment of agreed-upon technology and commercial objectives.

c. NASA's R&D activity consists of the annual funding obligated to acquisition activities that are categorized as R&D by the Federal Products and Services Codes as issued by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy.

d. Data regarding NASA's investment in "commercial technology partnerships" will be maintained on the NASATechTracS information system.

3. AUTHORITY

a. 42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(1), Section 203(c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended.

b. 15 U.S.C. 3710 et seq., Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-480), as amended.

c. 35 U.S.C. 200 et seq., Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-517), as amended.

d. 14 CFR Subpart 1245.1, Patent Waiver Regulations.

4. REFERENCES

a. NPD 1000.1, NASA Strategic Plan.

b. NPR 1000.2, NASA Strategic Management System.

c. NPD 1050.1F, Authority to Enter into Space Act Agreements.

d. NPR 1050.1, Space Act Agreements.

e. NPD 2091.1, Inventions Made by Government Employees.

f. NPD 2092.1, Royalties and Other Payments Received by NASA from the Licensing of Patents and Patent Applications.

g. NPD 2110.1, Foreign Access to NASA Technology Transfer Materials.

h. NPD 2210.1, External Release of NASA Software.

i. NPR 2210.1, External Release of NASA Software.

j. NPD 2220.5, Management of NASA Scientific and Technical Information (STI).

k. NPD 2810.1, Security of Information Technology.

l. NPR 2810.1, Security of Information Technology.

m. NPD 7120.4, Program/Project Management.

n. NPR 7120.5, NASA Program and Project Management Processes and Requirements.

o. NPR 7500.x, NASA Technology Commercialization Process Document.

p. NPD 9800.1, NASA Office of Inspector General Programs.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

a. The Associate Administrator for Aero-Space Technology has the following responsibilities:

- (1) Establishing NASA-wide technology commercialization policy.
- (2) Developing and maintaining NASATechTracS as the Agencywide commercial technology information system.
- (3) Providing Agencywide quarterly metrics reports to the Associate Deputy Administrator and the Senior Management Council.
- (4) Providing an annual metrics report on commercial technology partnerships to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer in support of NASA's reporting obligations under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).
- (5) Establishing requirements and curriculum for technology commercialization training and providing necessary commercial technology training to NASA employees involved in the technology commercialization processes.
- (6) As the NASA Chief Technologist, coordinating with the NASA Enterprises to ensure that NASA's technology development strategy adequately supports potential future commercialization of the technologies developed.

b. Enterprise/Institutional Program Offices are responsible for the following:

- (1) Managing their technology assets and developing additional policy and program activities, as needed, which support the effective implementation of their commercial partnership objectives.
- (2) Ensuring that applicable activities under their cognizance are in compliance with NASA technology commercialization policy.
- (3) Ensuring that appropriate technology commercialization processes are incorporated and maintained in those applicable activities at the earliest stage and supported with adequate resources and skilled personnel.
- (4) Ensuring that Agencywide technology commercialization metrics are collected for reporting through the NASATechTracS information system from all applicable activities under their cognizance and that these metrics are included in their status reports to their appropriate program management council.

c. NASA Center Directors are responsible for the following:

- (1) Implementing an effective technology commercialization program in all applicable activities within their Centers.
- (2) Collecting, providing, validating and maintaining quality data in NASATechTracS.
- (3) Including in the position description of all professional positions, where applicable (e.g., program/project managers, scientists, commercialization specialists), a statement delineating their responsibilities with regard to NASA technology commercialization.

d. The NASA Chief Engineer is responsible for ensuring that programs which report to the Program Management Council specifically address the status of their commercialization performance.

e. The NASA General Counsel is responsible for protecting intellectual property rights in NASA technology assets, and for ensuring that transfer of NASA technology and intellectual property, through licensing and otherwise, conforms with applicable laws, regulations, and NASA Policies.

6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None.

7. MEASUREMENTS

NASA has defined a set of Agencywide technology commercialization metrics which shall apply across all NASA Enterprise programs and projects. These metrics reflect the extent to which NASA activities do the following:

- a. Emphasize technology commercialization;
- b. Identify and implement effective commercial technology partnerships;
- c. Produce technological assets with potential commercial application; and
- d. Achieve successful technology commercialization.

Specific measurement requirements and guidelines will be provided in NPR 7500.

Additional Agencywide technology commercialization metrics may be added as needed in the future. NASA Enterprises may define additional technology commercialization metrics that are applicable to their activities.

8. CANCELLATION

None.

Revalidated 4/26/04

**/s/ Sean O'Keefe
Administrator**

ATTACHMENT A: (TEXT)

None.

(URL for Graphic)

None.

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